

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for displaying a graphical illustration of an object in a computer graphics program, comprising:
 - obtaining an object in a computer graphics program;
 - 5 displaying a properties palette for the object, wherein the properties palette comprises one or more object properties having corresponding property values;
 - displaying a graphical illustration of the object in the properties palette.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein one or more of the object properties
10 are keynoted to refer to corresponding keynotes displayed in the graphical illustration.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising highlighting the keynote displayed in the graphical illustration when the cursor is passed over the corresponding object property.
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4. The method of claim 2, further comprising highlighting one or more keynoted object properties when the cursor is passed over the corresponding keynote or property displayed in the graphical illustration.
- 20 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising toggling the visibility of the illustration using a show/hide illustration button.
6. The method of claim 1, further comprising changing the view of the

object displayed in the graphical illustration using a shortcut menu.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the graphical illustration is enabled by an ActiveX application.

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8. An apparatus for displaying a graphical illustration of an object in a computer graphics program of a computer system comprising:

- (a) a computer having a memory;
- (b) an application executing on the computer, wherein the application is

10 configured to:

- (i) obtain an object in a computer graphics program;
- (ii) display a properties palette for the object, wherein the properties palette comprises one or more object properties having corresponding property values;

15 (iii) display a graphical illustration of the object in the properties palette.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein one or more of the object properties are keynoted to refer to corresponding keynotes displayed in the graphical illustration.

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10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the application is further configured to highlight the keynote displayed in the graphical illustration when the cursor is passed over the corresponding object property.

11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the application is further configured to highlight one or more keynoted object properties when the cursor is passed over the corresponding keynote or property displayed in the graphical illustration.

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12. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the application is further configured to toggle the visibility of the illustration using a show/hide illustration button.

13. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the application is further configured
10 to change the view of the object displayed in the graphical illustration using a shortcut menu.

14. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the graphical illustration is enabled by an ActiveX application.

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15. An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform a method for displaying a graphical illustration of an object in an object-oriented computer graphics system, the apparatus comprising:

20 means for obtaining an object in a computer graphics program;

means for displaying a properties palette for the object, wherein the properties palette comprises one or more object properties having corresponding property values;

means for displaying a graphical illustration of the object in the properties palette.

16. The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein one or more of the object properties are keynoted to refer to corresponding keynotes displayed in the graphical illustration.

17. The article of manufacture of claim 16, further comprising means for highlighting the keynote displayed in the graphical illustration when the cursor is passed over the corresponding object property.

18. The article of manufacture of claim 16, further comprising means for highlighting one or more keynoted object properties when the cursor is passed over the corresponding keynote or property displayed in the graphical illustration.

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19. The article of manufacture of claim 15, further comprising means for toggling the visibility of the illustration using a show/hide illustration button.

20. The article of manufacture of claim 15, further comprising means for changing the view of the object displayed in the graphical illustration using a shortcut menu.

21. The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein the graphical illustration is enabled by an ActiveX application.